

**Boston Center for Independent Living, Inc.**

***The Alternative Housing Voucher Program***

DHCD Line Item 7004-9030

Established in 1995, the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) provides rental vouchers to applicants with disabilities who are not elderly and who have been determined eligible for Chapter 667 (elderly and disabled) housing. DHCD's Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance administers this program.

**How it works:**

A tenant will pay either 25 or 30% of their net income to the landlord, depending on whether or not the utilities are included in the rent; and the state's local housing authority will pay the remainder.

**Who is eligible:**

Those applicants who are eligible under the Ch. 667 elderly and disabled program, but who are under the age of 60.

**Application process:**

Applicants can apply at any of the 23 local housing authorities that have received an allocation of Alternative Housing Vouchers. If eligible, their names will be placed on a waiting list. Once their name reaches the top of the list, the applicants will be given a briefing on all aspects of the program. During the briefing, the applicant will receive an AHVP Voucher which allows 120 days to locate appropriate housing. The vouchers can be used throughout Massachusetts only.

**Current program status:**

Through December 2012, 412 households were under lease; the line item is funded at \$3.45 million. *The program was originally funded at \$4 million in 1995 to support 800 vouchers!* Advocates are seeking a \$1.55 million increase in the line item, as a shortage of affordable housing continues to beset adults with disabilities, especially people who are forced to reside in nursing homes for a lack of housing. The federally-funded Money Follows the Person initiative in Massachusetts, which will support nursing home diversions, will increase the need for more units.

**For more information, contact Bill Henning or Adrienne Langlois at the Boston Center for Independent Living, 617-338-6665, [bhenning@bostoncil.org](mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org) or [alanglois@bostoncil.org](mailto:alanglois@bostoncil.org).**